GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:739
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2007
MOU WITH AFGHANISTAN ON SMALL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS
Singh Shri Sugrib

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Afghanistan have signed an MOU on Small Development Projects during August 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) progress made so far in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

a) Yes. The Government of India have signed an MOU with the Government of Afghanistan on Small Development Projects (SDPs) on August 28, 2005.

b) Small-scale developmental projects are short gestation with direct impact on community life. Apart from transfer of know-how and technology, this scheme will also entail grass- roots participation and community ownership through involvement of local bodies, non-governmental organisations, charitable trusts and educational and vocational institutions. These projects are primarily in area of health care, education, horticulture, water and sanitation. These projects are identified by Government of Afghanistan in consultation with local bodies concerned.

c) 39 projects have been approved under this scheme so far.